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on the CSCU Budget  
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Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee's Higher Education Subcommittee, Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs, guests, and colleagues:

Thank you for your time and attention this evening.

I would like to briefly speak in support of the budget for the CSCU system. As you well know, many Connecticut residents and taxpayers, including members of the General Assembly, have received at least part of their higher education in the Community Colleges and the CSU system. An educated populace is absolutely essential to the future of the State of Connecticut.

The problem is that we are increasingly pricing many of our citizens out of our public higher education system. Every budget reduction will eventually affect both the faculty, and the instruction our students receive.

What you may not know is that across the CSU system, the majority of those doing the instruction are part-time faculty. We are hired on a semester-to-semester basis, with few or no benefits. We make a fraction of the salary our full-time colleagues do. When budgets are reduced, and classes are cut, the part-time faculty are the ones who feel the brunt. While such circumstances are concerning, we are not the only ones affected. Part-time faculty disproportionately teach introductory and remedial courses. These are the courses our most vulnerable students are taking, so they are also unduly affected when cuts happen. I hope you can understand why that is a problem.

In sum, I know you appreciate the significance of higher education to the State of Connecticut. I urge you to think of higher education as a public good, worthy of sufficient support for all the faculty and students in the CSU system. Without an educated citizenry, we cannot expect a bright future for the State of Connecticut.

Again, thank you for your time tonight.

Kevin Kean